



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 27 2014

Ms. Anne-Haaker
SHPO/Deputy Director
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Re: Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for an Air Permitting Project Proposed by Akin Energy, LLC., in Hamilton County, Illinois.

Dear Ms. Haaker:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the cultural resources assessment for the Hamilton County Power Plant project proposed by Akin Energy, LLC. The new power plant will be located about 2 miles south of the village of Macedonia, in Hamilton County, Illinois. The proposed project requires a federal air permit under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration of air quality (PSD) permitting program, 40 C.F.R. § 52.21. EPA has delegated to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) authority to issue PSD permits in Illinois.

In accordance with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EPA has determined that the proposed project is an "undertaking" as defined in 36 C.F.R. § 800.16(y). Consequently, EPA has initiated the Section 106 review process. The purpose of this letter is to (1) provide an overview of the undertaking; (2) describe the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and present EPA's finding of no historic properties affected; and (3) request your concurrence on this determination.

Overview of the Undertaking

Akin Energy, LLC, is proposing to construct and operate a power plant in Hamilton County, Illinois, approximately 2 miles southeast of the village of Macedonia, consisting of up to fourteen reciprocating internal combustion engines (gas engines) and auxiliary equipment. The gas engines will range in size from 130 to 140 megawatts (MW) and will be designed to burn pipeline-quality natural gas exclusively. In addition to the gas engines, the power plant will include two natural gas-fired dew point heaters, an emergency fire pump, three diesel-fired generators (one for emergency use), circuit breakers and two fuel oil storage tanks. The proposed site is located within the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 5, Township 6 South, Range 5 East of the 3rd Principal Meridian, an area that is currently used for agriculture production.

Area of Potential Effects

For purposes of this undertaking, the APE is the geographic area or areas where the proposed power plant may directly or indirectly affect historic properties should they exist. EPA has determined the APE for this undertaking to be the area within a one-mile radius of the property boundary. In accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(b)(1), EPA has taken "reasonable and good faith" efforts to identify historic properties within the APE. Specifically, EPA searched the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the applicant examined data at the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency office, including the Cultural Resource Management reports, archaeological site location maps, and the computerized archaeological site database. Based on these efforts, EPA finds that there are no historic properties within the APE.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing evaluation, and pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1), EPA is making a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for the undertaking. By this letter, EPA is fulfilling its obligations pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA for the Hamilton County Power Plant permitting action currently before IEPA.

If you have any questions with respect to this letter or disagree with this determination, please contact me at (312) 353-4761, or David Ogulei, of my staff, at (312) 353-0987.

Sincerely,



Genevieve Damico

Chief

Air Permits Section

Enclosure: Hamilton County Power Plant NHPA Section 106 Assessment

cc: Ray Pilapil, IEPA

Kent Fickett, Ramco Energy, Inc. (by email to: k.fickett@comcast.net)